

**Andrew Jackson to Hugh Lawson White, April 29, 1831,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO HUGH L. WHITE.

Washington, April 29, 1831.

My D'r sir, Your letters of the 18th and 20th are just recd. your determination expressed in yours of the 20th has filled me with pain and I beg of you most seriously to reconsider it. The public confidence you possess in a most eminent degree. This is every thing to the administration, your talents are as good as I wish them, you are well acquainted with our Indian affairs which is the most important branch of the war department, and no one I could get is half so well qualified as yourself. as for the mere arrangement of the military branch, you have whatever aid I can afford and also the aid of McComb¹ whose long experience in the military department will render that part of your duties easy. Your knowledge of law and your talents and acquirements will render the place easy to you.

¹ Maj.-Gen. Alexander Macomb, commander-in-chief of the army.

Had I time to bring to your view the circumstances with which I am surrounded, the necessity, from actual experience, of having men round me in whom I can confide, and particularly one to whom I can freely unbosom myself I know you would yield to my wishes.

The great principles of democracy which we have both at heart to see restored to the Federal Government, cannot be accomplished unless a united Cabinet who will labour to this end. The struggle against the rechartering of the U. States Bank are to be met. The corrupting influence of the Bank upon the morals of the people and upon Congress

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are to be met and fearlessly me [t]. Duff Green has violated his pledge on this subject and is neutralised. Many who you would not have supposed, has secretly enlisted in its ranks, and between Bank men, nullifiers, and internal improvement men it is hard to get a Cabinet who will unite with me heart and hand in the great task of Democratic reform in the administration of our Government. In this work if possible the Cabinet must be united, or the Executive whilst labouring to effect it, some one of the Cabinet may be secretly labouring with Congress to prevent it from being carried into execution.

As it respects your domestic concerns that can be arranged so that you can visit it every year, and one of the two succeeding years I will agree to accompany you or at least take you up on my return and bring you with me here. I cannot do without you for the two next years. if you should become wearied by that time, then I will if continued here agree to spare you, but if you should now decline you derange all my well laid plans.² Who can I get to fill the war office. I could get Col Drayton perhaps, who may be in favor of rechartering the Bank, acquainted with military matters, but unacquainted with Indian matters and whose appointment would arouse half of So Carolina, and let it be remembered that he has been a strong Federalist. I like the man but I fear his politics, and having taken McLane (a Federalist) into the Treasury I do not want to be compelled to take another. Your refusal at present would produce and throw around me a laberinth of dificulties from which it would be hard to extricate myself. I will just add, if it had not been that I wanted your aid or that of major Eaton I never would have permitted myself to have been here. I trust you will reconsider this matter, and answer me speedily that you will accept. I will be more than happy to have you under the same roof, and you have no friend but will say you ought to yield to my request. What a sacrafice I have made to the solicitations of my friends and what a sacrafice am I still making to the request of my country: and I trust you will not hesitate to make the one I have solicited.

² See p. 257n., *ante*.